

Mark Shelton

Biography

Representative Mark Shelton was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in November 2008. He represents Texas House District 97, which is located in southwest Tarrant County and includes Benbrook, Edgecliff Village, and southwest Fort Worth.

Representative Shelton, one of only three physicians serving in the Texas Legislature, was responsible for the passage of several key pieces of legislation during the 81st session, including serving as the House sponsor for ChildLINK - a new program administered by the Office of the Attorney General that will provide health coverage to over 200,000 uninsured children in the child support system, at no cost to the taxpayers. Shelton also joint-authored legislation advancing newborn screening procedures for curable diseases, which will ensure that sick infants receive proper, life-saving treatment. For his efforts to improve health care for Texas children, Shelton was awarded the Health Care Hero Award by the House Republican Caucus.

Also during the 81st Legislative Session, House Speaker Joe Straus appointed Representative Shelton to the Committee on Border and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Committee on House Administration, and the Committee on Public Education, through which Shelton passed legislation removing unfunded mandates for public schools, providing solutions for childhood obesity, and implementing new accountability standards to Texas schools. Shelton successfully passed legislation protecting victims of human trafficking and co-authored the successful property tax and eminent domain reforms passed by the 81st Legislature and approved by Texas voters in the November 2009 election. Shelton is an ardent supporter of securing the Texas-Mexico border in order to keep Texans safe. Bringing a common-sense, conservative approach to state government, Shelton consistently voted to lower taxes, decrease government spending, balance the state budget, and reject federal intervention in Texas law.

From 1988 until taking office in November 2008, Representative Shelton served as the Director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Program at Cook Children's Medical Center where he was in charge of the Hospital Infection Control Program, the Pediatric AIDS Program, the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Program, and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Consultation Service. He has also served as vice president of the Cook Children's Physician Network and as a board member of the Cook Children's System. He remains a full-time practicing physician at Cook Children's Hospital.

Shelton has also been active with the Boy Scouts of America, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Lena Pope Home, where he has served as president of the board.

Representative Shelton grew up in Arlington, Texas and is a graduate of Lamar High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Baylor University and went on to attend the Texas A&M University College of Medicine (now the Texas A&M Health Science Center), receiving his Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1983. He is double-boarded in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Shelton has been married to his wife Mary Ann for 26 years, and they have four children: Richard, Andrew, Peter, and Betsy.

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